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CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1. A method for using a computer system to provide a user interface to a text, comprising the steps of:
 - a. presenting, on a display controlled by the computer system, an outline of the text, wherein
 - i. a word or phrase appearing in the text is an
 element of the text;
 - ii. a plurality of elements of the text are
 included as elements of the outline;
 - iii. each element of the outline represents a
 portion of the text;
 - iv. elements of the outline comprise
 substantially less text than the entire
 text;
 - v. substantially all portions of the text are represented by at least one element of the outline;
 - vi. the positional and hierarchical relationship between the elements of the text is maintained on the outline; and
 - b. performing, in response to a signal from a user of the computer system, an operation on an entire portion of the text represented by at least one

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element of the outline.

- 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a user the ability to select an element in the outline, such that the operation is performed on the entire portion of text referred to by the element.
- 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying a result of the operation on the text represented by an element of the outline in a location on the outline corresponding to the element.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the elements of text presented on the outline relate to the structure of the text.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the outline is computer generated.
- 6. The method of claim 1, further providing to the user the ability to expand and collapse items in the outline.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the outline shown at any given time corresponds to the cursor location in the original text.
- 8. The method of claim 3, further providing a link to the original text from a result displayed on the outline.
 - 9. The method of claim 3, wherein the operation comprises reverse-indexing of the text referred to by the outline element.
- 25 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the words in the

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reverse-index are provided in alphabetical order.

- 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises searching within the text referred to by the outline element.
- 5 12. The method of claim 2, wherein the operation comprises printing the text referred to by the outline element.
 - 13. The method of claim 2, wherein the operation comprises copying the text referred to by the outline element.
 - 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises calculating a parameter related to the length of the text referred to by the outline element.
 - 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises identifying material related to that referred to by the outline element.
 - 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the operation comprises using a reference work to look up material contained in a portion of text referred to by the outline element.
 - 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises identifying annotations to the portion of text referred to by the outline element.
 - 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises calculating a parameter related to the time spent viewing text referred to by an outline element.
- 25 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises

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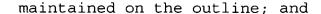
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- moving the text referred to by the outline element to a different location.
- 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises partially displaying text referred to by the outline element on the outline.
- 21. A computer system for displaying text, comprising
 - a. A display device controlled by the computer
 - b. Said display device imaging a portion of text controlled by the computer system,
 - c. an outline of the text, a portion of which is presented on the display device, such that:
 - i. a word or phrase appearing in the text is an element of the text;
 - ii. a plurality of elements of the text are
 included as elements of the outline;
 - iii. each element of the outline represents a
 portion of the text;
 - iv. elements of the outline comprise
 substantially less text than the entire
 text;
 - v. substantially all portions of the text are represented by at least one element of the outline;
 - vi. the positional and hierarchical relationship between the elements of the text is

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- d. a mechanism to respond to a signal from a user of the computer system by performing an operation on an entire portion of the text represented by at least one element of the outline.
- 22. A computer memory storage device encoded with a computer program for using a computer system to display electronic text comprising:
 - a. an outline of the text, such that:
 - i. a word or phrase appearing in the text is an element of the text;
 - ii. a plurality of elements of the text are
 included as elements of the outline;
 - iii. each element of the outline represents a
 portion of the text;
 - iv. elements of the outline comprise
 substantially less text than the entire
 text;
 - v. substantially all portions of the text are represented by at least one element of the outline;
 - vi. the positional and hierarchical relationship between the elements of the text is maintained on the outline; and
 - b. a mechanism to respond to a signal from a user of



the computer system by performing an operation on an entire portion of the text represented by at least one element of the outline.